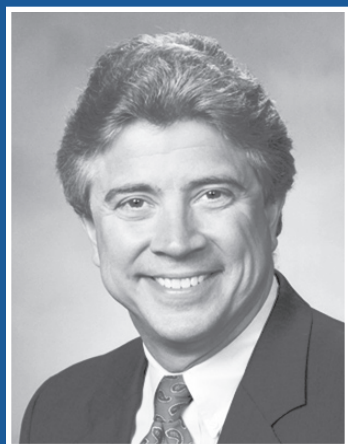


# 2006 Legislative Session Review

Representative  
**Glenn Anderson**  
5th District



*Serving Issaquah,  
Sammamish, Snoqualmie  
Valley, Maple Valley, Black  
Diamond and Renton.*

Dear Friends & Neighbors,

The 2005-2006 Legislative sessions are now over. Inside this newsletter you will find the highlights of these sessions. The ones I've included tended to be the more significant for all district constituents.

I have been hopeful that the closeness of the recent gubernatorial election would truly encourage a more bipartisan approach to dealing with the long list of major challenges facing our state. In some cases this has been true, more often it has not been. The across-the-board Democrat majority in Olympia certainly has the right to pursue its policies to guide our state. However, the temptation to short-circuit our legislative processes to apply the power of our government institutions has proven to be too enticing.

Unfortunately, the majority party in the House of Representatives has instituted a policy to censor the communications of minority legislators to the press and to the citizens they are duly elected to represent. My releases to the media and newsletters to you (including this one) are screened and scrubbed of "offending" language and phrases as determined by the majority party. Whenever the majority party in power (regardless of who) actively [**\*censored\***] we all lose.



Our system of free debate of issues is messy, complicated, noisy and ultimately the greatest protection of our freedoms. Censorship of differing points-of-view undermines the most basic tenets of our freedoms. Hopefully, the majority party will reconsider the misguided approach it has chosen and not damage the heritage of freedom of speech we all share. You are the best judge of how I choose to communicate with you, and you let me know every two years. It should stay that way.

Thank you for all the ideas and opinions you shared during the legislative session on opportunities to problem-solve on all the issues facing our state. It's your government and your voice does make a difference to me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Glenn Anderson".

Glenn Anderson

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# • 2006 Legislative Session Review •

## Our State's Economy

Last year our state's economy stabilized from the '03-'04 recession providing a rare \$1.5 billion revenue surplus at the beginning of the 2006 legislative session. Half of this surplus resulted from real estate taxes generated by low interest rates and the home buying bubble. Job creation, while improving, remained spotty across the state.



## The "Big Picture" Economy

The hyper competitiveness of the global economy continues to affect our state. The economic growth rate in China was 9.5 percent, in India 6 percent, and in the U.S. 3 percent. Global economic growth is having a broad impact on the market cost of energy and natural resources worldwide and consequently raising the baseline for our cost of living.

The financial condition of our federal government continues to deteriorate. Overall, our total national economy totals \$12 trillion and its unfunded liabilities for Social Security and Medicare/Medicaid total \$60 trillion. That means for the next 50 years, as the baby-boomer generation moves through retirement, federal government revenues are going to have to increase 20 times more than the annual rate of inflation on existing spending, *every year for 50 years*, to pay those obligations. The chance of that happening is ZERO. That means very large spending cuts in the next five to 10 years are almost inevitable and certain thereafter. This federal budget meltdown is the result of unrealistic policies by both national political parties over the last thirty years.

The consequences of global competitiveness and the federal government's fiscal condition will have a significant impact on our state budget in the near future.



## Our State Budget

Our current state operating budget is \$29.6 billion. This session the majority party ignored voter-approved state spending limits and increased state spending 17.7 percent. That is a \$4 billion spending increase over the last budget. From 1993 to 2003, general fund spending increased by \$7 billion. However, this year's budget increased spending by a record-setting \$4 billion over the 2003-05 budget. The use of **[\*censored\*]** accounting and **[\*censored\*]** in Olympia continues to be business as usual.

The most flagrant **[\*censored\*]** was the diversion of voter-approved I-728 state property tax dollars (\$138 million) into the state general fund to pay for increasing health care costs and away from smaller class-sizes. A new "Education Legacy Trust" account was established and funded with increased sin taxes and a personal estate liquidation tax. This **[\*censored\*]** did not fully replace funds for smaller class sizes lost by the diversion of state property tax dollars.

(The enactment of these taxes and funding schemes has since been ruled illegal by a Superior Court judge in Snohomish County. This decision makes the entire state budget illegal. The governor will appeal this judicial decision to the state Supreme Court at taxpayer's expense.)

New "reserve" accounts were created which then added \$825 million "spent" into them for new spending deferred until next year's budget. These new accounts were portrayed as "savings" accounts. The federal Department of Justice is currently prosecuting **[\*censored\*]** executives for using similar accounting **[\*censored\*]** to **[\*censored\*]** the books.

Last, by not addressing our state's own unfunded pension liabilities in a meaningful manner an additional \$700 million in new obligations was created and left to future taxpayers.

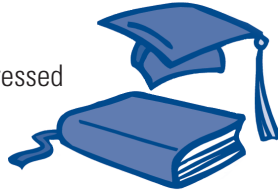
I and others sponsored several constitutional amendments that would require a bipartisan 60 percent supermajority for the Legislature to exceed spending limits or impose new taxes and to create a single mandatory emergency reserve account. This legislation was not allowed a hearing or a vote by the majority party. A full 70 percent of 5th District residents support these constitutional safeguards for the state budget.



# • Rep. Glenn Anderson •

## Education

A successful bipartisan effort addressed concerns with the WASL high school graduation requirements. A solid guidance counseling and diagnostic program, graduation remediation program, equivalent career technical achievement program and alternative math testing were all put into place. Much of my time and effort this session was invested in getting these changes successfully through the Legislature. As a result of this effort, \$27.2 million was allocated to these education programs.



Evaluating WASL testing requirements clearly revealed the inadequacies of our current mathematics curriculum. I introduced legislation to require more “real” math instruction in our schools based on the world-class Singapore model. Parents and teachers from across the state rallied to support this initiative and the House Education Committee will be reviewing alternatives to our current math curriculum for consideration next year.

Unfortunately, a more disturbing issue also came up. There are minority interest groups that are seeking special “multiculturalist” curricula separate from the mainstream curriculum. While strongly supporting the cultural diversity that defines our common American heritage, special “separate but equal” curricula based on race and ethnicity is inherently segregationist and counter to children’s best interests. I opposed these efforts.

Finally, a state Department of Early Childhood Learning was created. This new state agency will consolidate a number of existing state programs, including ECAEP, and regulate child day care providers. Companion legislation also requires that child care providers regulated by this new agency be subject to union collective bargaining. There is a good case to empower “good parenting” through greater awareness of early childhood learning data. However, I believe that a nonunion, nonprofit approach to allow parents the maximum freedom of choice and responsibility for their children is the better approach. I voted against the creation of this agency.



***After motioning to bring his Fund Education First bill for a House floor vote, Rep. Anderson looks at the board to see the final vote count. The motion failed on a party-line vote, 54-43.***

## Gay, Lesbian & Transgender Rights and Marriage

Legislation was passed to provide gay, lesbian and transgender people civil rights protections from discrimination in employment, housing and credit this session. No evidence was provided to the Legislature that widespread, systemic discrimination in these areas exists. The primary argument put forward by supporters of this legislation was the need to validate these lifestyles.

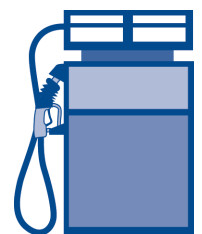


I am deeply opposed to government-sanctioned discrimination of any type, but I do not believe that social validation is an appropriate standard for establishing civil rights protections. Sexual orientation harassment is currently a Class C felony included under our state’s malicious harassment (violent assault) laws.

In my recent survey of 5th District residents, 65 percent support our state’s Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) defining marriage as being between a man and a woman. Should DOMA be considered for amendment, 72 percent who responded believe the change should be done by the Legislature or by an initiative to the people.

## Environment & Energy

Over the last year it has become clear we must diversify from our foreign dependence on fossil fuels for transportation. I supported new tougher emission standards and encouraged better gas mileage standards for vehicles. These new standards will go into effect in 2010. I also supported the requirement that bio-fuels (ethanol, biodiesel, etc.) be integrated into our automobile fuel supply. Integrating biofuels into the supply chain will take time and must be managed



so as not to disrupt our economy. Investing in diversification of our fuel supply will not mean that pump prices will be lower, just that supplies will be less subject to disruption in the long term.



## Health Care

The state's health care environment continues to be a mess. Currently, health care cost inflation is running about 10 percent. The majority party continues to push for a government-funded universal coverage system; however this approach has continually proven to be unworkable. Most options put before the Legislature are more about sticking someone else with the bill, as opposed to finding a balanced, effective and affordable solution to provide care.

Legislation to reform small business group plans (which cover 70 percent of employees across the state) this year included greater access to health care savings accounts, a business tax credit for employers purchasing health care coverage for their employees, and allowing insurance carriers to offer limited scope policies for small businesses. This legislation passed the Senate on a broad bipartisan basis and was killed in the House by the majority on a party-line vote. I voted for these reforms.

Based on feedback from 5th District residents, 71 percent believe that government should provide incentives to employers to provide affordable health care coverage and government involvement should be restricted to assisting the most vulnerable and poor.



## Elections

After the controversial governor's race in the 2004 election, a number of technical "fixes" to the election process were enacted into law, which I supported. However, legislation to provide positive photo identification and proof of U.S. citizenship to register to vote was voted down by the majority party. Eighty-two percent of 5th District residents support these voter identification safeguards.



## Public Safety

Bipartisan progress was made to toughen laws regarding sex predators. Washington now has some of the toughest sex predator laws in the nation. New laws include: a mandatory sentence of 30 years to life for rape of a child under age 12, a mandatory 25-year sentence for rape of a child 13-15, increased penalties for not registering with law enforcement and required GPS monitoring. The new law also clearly defines "groomers" in positions



of trust, such as teachers, counselors, coaches, doctors and clergy who molest a child. Additionally, \$50 million was appropriated for new prison space.

While these new laws will help, the harsh reality is that 70 percent of these hideous crimes are related to incest within the family. To eliminate this blight all of us must practice a zero-tolerance policy of "looking the other way" when we become aware of such a situation.

## Lighter Side

Legislation was introduced that provided a business and occupation tax exemption for the shoveling of bull manure. It wasn't clear that this activity was being taxed, but it seemed pretty important to some legislators that it shouldn't be taxed. The bill passed the House 97-1. I voted no. A tax on the shoveling of legislative bull manure might encourage a better work product in Olympia.

2006  
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